

DETROIT NEWS

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STATINTL

Atomic Post Is Given to Professor

CPYRGHT

WASHINGTON, Oct. 23, 1959

President Eisenhower today named a 50-year-old mathematics professor, Dr. John von Neumann, to the remaining vacancy on the five-man Atomic Energy Commission.

A naturalized American who was born in Budapest, Hungary, Von Neumann succeeds Eugene M. Zuckert in the \$18,000-a-year post for a five-year term ending June 30, 1959. Zuckert left when his term expired last June 30.

PROFESSOR SINCE 1933

Von Neumann has compiled a distinguished record as a scientist and has been a professor at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, N. J., since 1933.

Director of the institute is Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, the pioneer atomic scientist who was declared a security risk by the commission last June. He had been an adviser to the commission. The institute is not a part of Princeton University.

RATED AS INDEPENDENT

The White House listed Von Neumann as a political independent, which makes the new commission lineup three Republicans, one Democrat and one Independent. The law does not require any specific political ratio among the commissioners. The only Democrat, Thomas E. Murray, is the sole remaining appointee of former President Truman.

Von Neumann is the second current member of the commission to have a scientific background. The other is Dr. Willard Frank Libby, a University of Chicago atomic scientist appointed to succeed Dr. Henry D. Smyth last Sept. 30.

Both nominations must be passed on by the Senate.

ON ADVISORY GROUPS

Von Neumann became a naturalized American citizen on Aug. 1, 1937. Besides achievements in the scientific and educational fields, he has served on a number of government advisory groups including the general advisory committee to the Atomic Energy Commission and, as chairman of a nuclear weapons panel, on the Air Force's scientific advisory board. He also has been a consultant to the Central Intelligence Agency.

At his home in Princeton, Von Neumann said he preferred not to comment on his new assignment "until I hear of it officially."